

Dear Sir/Madame,

The National Technical Institute for the Deaf, one of 8 colleges at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York, provides postsecondary education to 1170 deaf and hard of hearing students who come from all 50 states in the United States. It is imperative that the VRS reimbursement rates be established at an appropriate rate that allows deaf and hard of hearing students at NTID including over 100 deaf and hard of hearing faculty and staff to have full access to qualified VRS interpreting personnel, thus ensuring translation accuracy and ability to capture in appropriate visual format the vocal/speech nuances of the hearing party. As a deaf person with a deaf wife and deaf and hard of hearing children, I urge you to consider appropriate reimbursable rates (and regulatory requirements) that would be adequate to cover further research and development efforts to improve the quality and access of VRS.

Sincerely,  
T. Alan Hurwitz  
Vice President, RIT  
Dean, NTID